
V. REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Asa et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,158,559) in view of Yasuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,659,243) or, in the alternative, Yasuda in view of Asa. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Asa et al. discloses the rod guide in which only the portion slidable contacted with the piston rod is provided with the porous sintered metal layer on the steel thin plate and the porous sintered. metal layer is impregnated with the synthetic resin so as to form three-layer structure.

Yasuda discloses the structure in which the rod guide is formed by press molding the sheet metal and the bearing bush is pressure inserted to the inner diameter of the rod guide so as to be slidable with the piston rod.

However, in accordance with the present invention, since at least a sliding surface of said rod guide with respect to said piston rod in the press molded product is coated directly only by a sliding synthetic resin layer constituted by one layer, the same bearing performance can be obtained by the simple and inexpensive structure in comparison with the references.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper

or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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Enclosure(s): Petition for Extension of Time (one month)

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